

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 539

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the congregation of Bethlehem Church of Christ on the celebration of the church's 200th anniversary.

WHEREAS, we are pleased to recognize those historic churches and their congregations who have dedicated themselves and their resources to spreading the good news of the Gospel in their communities, thereby lifting up society with God's Word; and

WHEREAS, Bethlehem Church of Christ has worked to improve the quality of both spiritual and temporal life in Tennessee for the past 200 years; and

WHEREAS, Bethlehem Church of Christ was formed in 1823 after Barton Stone, one of the seminal thinkers in the Churches of Christ, visited Tennessee and preached in and around the area that would come to be known as Tuckers Cross Roads; and

WHEREAS, the congregation, gathered to share in the study of the Scriptures and guided by Barton Stone's teachings, has worshipped in five different structures at three different sites, all less than a mile from Tuckers Cross Roads, but they have remained at their current location since 1930; and

WHEREAS, on September 16-17, 2023, a historical marker will be unveiled, and guests will be invited to the church to commemorate the momentous occasion; and

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Church of Christ congregation is vibrant and faithful, seeking to serve their Lord and their neighbors whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that we extend our best wishes to Bethlehem Church of Christ for many future blessings as the church's exemplary ministry continues to inspire individuals in the Lebanon community and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the pastor and congregation of Bethlehem Church of Christ on the celebration of their 200th anniversary and wish them much continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.